



IT'S COOLER THAN YOU THINK!

Global Climate Coalition
1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 1500 - North Tower
Washington, DC 20004-1703
Tel: 202.637.3158
Fax: 202.638.1043
Alt. Fax: 202.638.1032

Fascinating Talking Points that will Surprise and Interest Your Listeners

Background

In 1988, after a record hot summer, global warming emerged as one of the top environmental concerns. Industrialized countries perceived the threat of global warming so seriously that they negotiated a treaty at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases. On March 21 of this year, this treaty became international law, following ratification by more than 50 countries.

The media, however, is reflecting more and more the growing skepticism of apocalyptic global warming theories. *USA Today* reported (3/4/94), "No Global Warming," in a report on a new scientific study; the *Financial Times* published (3/18/94) an article on the uncertainties of climate change science entitled "Greenhouse faces stoning;" and the *Washington Post* published (6/1/93) an article entitled "'Greenhouse Effect Seems Benign So Far.'" To confound the issue even more, *Time* magazine (1/31/94) featured an article, headlined "The Ice Age Cometh?," focusing on new scientific theories of an approaching ice age.

Where is global warming?

- This winter temperatures in dozens of cities dropped to all-time lows. Chicago schools closed because of cold weather for the first time in history, Federal government offices shut down in Washington, DC, and East Coast cities narrowly escaped widespread power outages as overburdened electric utilities struggled to keep homes heated.
- One of the chief advocates of the global warming theory, a scientist named Stephen Schneider, is the same person who in the mid-1970s predicted with equal certitude that the planet was on the brink of a new Ice Age. Now some scientists think that Stephen Schneider may have been right the first time -- that the world's climate is naturally, gradually cooling. (*Detroit Free Press*, October 23, 1993)
- Human-induced warming is still theoretical, while ice ages are an established part of the planet's history. The last one ended about 10,000 years ago; the next one could start tens of thousands of years from now, or it may have already started. (*Time*, January 31, 1994)

What are scientists saying?

- A Gallup poll of climate scientists in the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union asked whether there has been any identifiable, human induced global warming to date. 49% of respondents said no; 33% said they did not know; and only 18% thought some warming has occurred. These results reflect the tremendous uncertainties that remain in the scientific community. (Gallup Poll, 1991)

(more)



- Climatologist John Christy says that since global temperature gathering satellites were launched almost 15 years ago, the satellite data indicate a cooling trend, not warming and other observational data are in sharp contrast to the predictions of computer models that have been used to forecast a dangerous warming. (*The Washington Post*, July 26, 1993)
- German oceanographer Manfred Stein, said historical evidence from ice cores taken in Greenland indicate it's been getting colder during the last 30 years and large climate swings can take place in as little as three years. (*Calgary Herald*, June 9, 1993)
- Dr. Frederick Seitz, former president of the National Academy of Sciences, proposes a new theory on what causes global temperature changes. He found that solar activity, such as sunspots, correlates with the rise and fall of the Earth's temperature. The computer climate models do not take into account the sun's influence on temperature. (*USA Today*, March 4, 1994)

Should the U.S. Do Anything? -- Yes

- The U.S. should focus the limited resources we have into those areas that promise the greatest return.
 - On research to help reduce the vast amount of uncertainties that remain in climate science;
 - On ways to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions from their biggest source - developing countries and countries with formerly centrally planned economies.
- The U.S. should focus on technology cooperation initiatives with developing nations. The transfer of U.S. modern technology to developing countries would be a "win-win" proposition. Emissions would be reduced as their developing economies grow, and American companies would open new markets and create more jobs.
- The U.S. should continue to foster business/government partnerships and voluntary initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases. Such initiatives capitalize on the strengths of America's leadership and ingenuity in energy efficiency and environmental protection, and they make good business sense regardless of remaining uncertainties in climate science.

The Global Climate Coalition is an organization of business trade associations and private companies established in 1989 to coordinate business participation in the scientific and policy debate on the global climate change issue.

For more information, to interview John Shlaes, executive director of the Global Climate Coalition, or for referrals to leading climate scientists, call the GCC Press Office in Washington, DC.

<p>GLOBAL CLIMATE COALITION PRESS OFFICE (202) 628-3622</p>
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